

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An interactive television program guide system in which an interactive television program guide is implemented on user television equipment, comprising:

memory in the user television equipment, in which program guide data ~~is stored~~ for use by the interactive television program guide and non-program guide applications are stored;

means for determining the memory requirements of a non-program guide application that is not currently stored on the user television equipment;

means for determining the amount of memory that will be available to the interactive television program guide after storing the non-program-guide application on the user television equipment;

means for receiving information from a remote source on the amount of memory for the interactive television program guide to use to store the program guide data; and

means for adjusting the amount of memory used by the interactive television program guide to store the program guide data ~~in response to~~ based at least in part on the received information and the amount of memory available after storing the non-program guide application on the user television equipment.

2. (Original) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1, wherein different

categories of program guide data are stored in the memory, the interactive television program guide system further comprising means for reallocating the memory among the different categories of program guide data when the amount of memory used to store the program guide data is adjusted.

3. (Currently Amended) An interactive television program guide system in which an interactive television program guide is implemented on user television equipment, comprising:

memory in the user television equipment in which program guide data ~~is stored~~ for use by the interactive television program guide and non-program guide applications are stored;

means for determining the memory requirements of a non-program guide application that is not currently stored on the user television equipment;

means for determining the amount of memory that will be available to the interactive television program guide after storing the non-program-guide application on the user television equipment;

means for receiving information on the amount of memory for the interactive television program guide to use to store the program guide data;

means for adjusting the amount of memory used by the interactive television program guide to store the program guide data ~~in response to~~ based at least in part on the received information and the amount of memory available after storing the non-program guide application on the user television equipment, wherein different categories of program guide data are stored in the memory;

means for reallocating the memory among the different categories of program guide data when the amount of memory used to store the program guide data is adjusted; and

means for reallocating the memory based on information in a database configuration record.

4. (Original) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 3 further comprising a television distribution facility for providing the program guide data to the interactive television program guide implemented on the user television equipment.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim ~~[[6]]~~ 4 further comprising means for establishing how much of the program guide data the interactive television program guide should retain for each of the different categories of program guide data to accommodate the new non-program-guide application.

8. (Original) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 7 further comprising means for downloading a new version of the database configuration record from the television distribution facility to the user television equipment.

9. (Original) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 8 further comprising means for downloading the new non-program-guide application

from the television distribution facility to the user television equipment.

10. (Original) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 3 further comprising means for allocating the memory based on a plurality of storage levels contained in the database configuration record.

11. (Original) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 10 wherein each storage level specifies how much data is to be retained by the interactive television program guide in a plurality of programming categories.

12. (Original) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 11 further comprising means for using one of the programming categories as a filter to discard any program guide data that concerns programs more than a certain number of days into the future.

13. (Original) The interactive electronic television program guide system defined in claim 3 further comprising means for distributing the database configuration record to the user television equipment from a television distribution facility accompanied by the program guide data.

14. (Original) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 13 wherein the program guide data is transmitted from a television

distribution facility to the user television equipment in a data stream, the interactive television program guide system further comprising means for downloading the interactive television program guide to the user television equipment in a data stream separate from the data stream used for transmitting the program guide data.

15. (Original) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 13 further comprising means for inputting the database configuration record at a cable system headend.

16. (Original) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 3 wherein the memory comprises a nonvolatile memory portion and a volatile memory portion.

17. (Original) The interactive television program guide defined in claim 16 further comprising means for storing the database configuration record in the nonvolatile memory portion and storing the program guide data in the volatile memory portion.

18. (Original) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 3 further comprising means for including at least one default startup level in the database configuration record.

19. (Original) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the program guide data stored in the memory corresponds to a given television channel line-up and wherein the means for

adjusting further comprises means for allocating the memory among the different categories of program guide data when the amount of stored program guide data is adjusted in response to an addition of new channels to the given television channel line-up.

20. (Original) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the means for adjusting further comprises means for adjusting the amount of memory used to store the program guide data to accommodate installation of a new application in the user television equipment.

21. (Currently amended) An interactive television program guide system in which an interactive television program guide is implemented on user television equipment, comprising:

memory in the user television equipment in which program guide data ~~is stored~~ for use by the interactive television program guide and non-program guide applications are stored;

means for determining the memory requirements of a non-program guide application that is not currently stored on the user television equipment;

means for determining the amount of memory that will be available to the interactive television program guide after storing the non-program-guide application on the user television equipment;

means for receiving information on the amount of memory for the interactive television program guide to use to store the program guide data;

means for adjusting the amount of memory used by the interactive television program guide to store the program guide data ~~in response to~~ based at least in part on the received information and the amount of memory available after storing the new non-program guide application on the user television equipment, wherein different categories of program guide data are stored in the memory and wherein the program guide data stored in the memory corresponds to a given television channel line-up; and

means for determining an amount of memory available for each of the different categories of program guide data after the addition of new channels, wherein the means for adjusting the memory adjusts based on the amounts of memory that are determined to be available for each of the different categories.

22. (Currently amended) An interactive television program guide system in which an interactive television program guide is implemented on user television equipment, comprising:

memory in the user television equipment in which program guide data ~~is stored~~ for use by the interactive television program guide and non-program guide applications are stored;

means for determining the memory requirements of a non-program guide application that is not currently stored on the user television equipment;

means for determining the amount of memory that will be available to the interactive television program guide after storing the non-program-guide application on the user television equipment;

means for receiving information on the amount of memory for the interactive television program guide to use to store the program guide data;

means for adjusting the amount of memory used by the interactive television program guide to store the program guide data ~~in response to~~ based at least in part on the received information and the amount of memory available after storing the non-program guide application, wherein the program guide data stored in the memory corresponds to a given television channel line-up; and

means for detecting a change in the amount of channels offered in the television channel line-up.

23-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) An interactive television program guide system in which an interactive television program guide is implemented on user television equipment, comprising:

memory in the user television equipment in which program guide data for a given memory configuration ~~is stored~~ for use by the interactive television program guide and non-program guide applications are stored;

means for determining the memory requirements of a non-program guide application that is not currently stored on the user television equipment;

means for determining the amount of memory that will be available to the interactive television program guide after storing the non-program-guide application on the user television equipment;

means for receiving program guide data for a new memory configuration;

means for reconfiguring the memory to accommodate the program guide data for the new memory configuration, wherein different categories of program guide data are stored in the memory, the means for reconfiguring further comprising means for reallocating the memory among the different categories of program guide data; and

means for reallocating the memory based on information in a database configuration record and the amount of memory available after storing the non-program guide application on the user television equipment.

30. (Original) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 29 further comprising a television distribution facility for providing the program guide data to the interactive television program guide implemented on the user television equipment.

31. (Original) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 30 wherein the television distribution facility further comprises means for determining the memory requirements of a new channel line-up.

32. (Original) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 further comprising means for establishing how much of the program guide data the interactive television program guide should retain for each of the different categories of program guide data to accommodate the new channel line-up.

33. (Original) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 32 further comprising means for downloading the new channel line-up from the television distribution facility to the user television equipment.

34. (Original) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 29 further comprising means for allocating the memory based on a plurality of storage levels contained in the database configuration record.

35. (Original) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 34 wherein each storage level specifies how much data is to be retained by the interactive television program guide in a plurality of programming categories.

36. (Original) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 35 further comprising means for using one of the programming categories as a filter to discard any program guide data that concerns programs more than a certain number of days into the future.

37. (Currently amended) A memory adjustment method for use in an interactive television program guide system in which an interactive television program guide is implemented on user television equipment that has memory, comprising:

determining the memory requirements of a non-program guide application that is not currently stored on the user television equipment;

determining the amount of the memory that will be available to the interactive television program guide after storing the non-program-guide application on the user television equipment;

storing program guide data in the memory for use by the interactive television program guide;

receiving information from a remote source on the amount of memory available for the interactive television program guide to use to store the program guide data; and

adjusting the amount of memory used for storing the program guide data ~~in response to~~ based at least in part on the received information and the amount of memory available after storing the non-program guide application on the user television equipment.

38. (Original) The method defined in claim 37 further comprising reallocating the memory among different categories of program guide data.

39. (Currently amended) A memory adjustment method for use in an interactive television program guide system in which an interactive television program guide is implemented on user television equipment that has memory, comprising:

determining the memory requirements of a non-program guide application that is not currently stored on the user television equipment;

determining the amount of the memory that will be available to the interactive television program guide after storing the new non-program-guide application on the user television equipment;

storing program guide data in the memory for use by the interactive television program guide;

receiving information on the amount of memory available for the interactive television program guide to use to store the program guide data;

adjusting the amount of memory used for storing the program guide data ~~in response to~~ based at least in part on the received information and the amount of memory available after storing the non-program guide application, wherein different categories of program guide data are stored in the memory;

reallocating the memory among different categories of program guide data; and

reallocating the memory based on information in a database configuration record.

40. (Original) The method defined in claim 39 further comprising distributing the program guide data from a television distribution facility to the interactive television program guide implemented on the user television equipment.

41-42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently amended) The method defined in claim [[42]] 40 further comprising establishing how much of the program guide data the interactive television program guide should retain for each of the different categories of

program guide data to accommodate the new non-program-guide application in the memory.

44. (Original) The method defined in claim 43 further comprising downloading a new version of the database configuration record from the television distribution facility to the user television equipment.

45. (Original) The method defined in claim 44 further comprising downloading the new non-program-guide application from the television distribution facility to the user television equipment.

46. (Original) The method defined in claim 45 further comprising allocating the memory based on a plurality of storage levels contained in the database configuration record.

47. (Original) The method defined in claim 46 wherein allocating the memory based on the storage levels further comprises specifying how much data is to be retained by the interactive television program guide in a plurality of programming categories.

48. (Original) The method defined in claim 47 further comprising using one of the programming categories as a filter to discard any program guide data that concerns programs more than a certain number of days into the future.

49. (Original) The method defined in claim 39 further comprising distributing the database configuration

record to the user television equipment from a television distribution facility accompanied by the program guide data.

50. (Original) The method defined in claim 49 further comprising:

transmitting the program guide data from a television distribution facility to the user television equipment in a data stream; and

downloading the interactive television program guide to the user television equipment in a data stream separate from the data stream used for transmitting the program guide data.

51. (Original) The method defined in claim 49 further comprising inputting the database configuration record at a cable system headend.

52. (Original) The method defined in claim 39 further comprising using memory that includes a nonvolatile memory portion and a volatile memory portion.

53. (Original) The method defined in claim 52 further comprising storing the database configuration record in the nonvolatile memory portion and storing the program guide data in the volatile memory portion.

54. (Original) The method defined in claim 39 further comprising including at least one default startup level in the database configuration record.

55. (Currently amended) A memory adjustment method for use in an interactive television program guide system in which an interactive television program guide is implemented on user television equipment that has memory, comprising:

determining the memory requirements of a non-program guide application that is not currently stored on the user television equipment;

determining the amount of memory that will be available to the interactive television program guide after storing the non-program-guide application on the user television equipment;

storing program guide data in the memory for use by the interactive television program guide;

receiving information on the amount of memory available for the interactive television program guide to use to store the program guide data;

adjusting the amount of memory used for storing the program guide data ~~in response to~~ based at least in part on the received information and the amount of memory available after storing the non-program guide application on the user television equipment, wherein different categories of program guide data are stored in the memory; and

detecting the addition of at least one new channel to a given television channel line-up and allocating the memory among the different categories of program guide data when the amount of memory used for stored program guide data is adjusted in response to an addition of at least one new channel to the given television channel line-up.

56. (Original) The method defined in claim 37 wherein the adjusting further comprises adjusting the memory to accommodate installation of a new application in the user television equipment.

57. (Currently amended) A memory adjustment method for use in an interactive television program guide system in which an interactive television program guide is implemented on user television equipment that has memory, comprising:

determining the memory requirements of a non-program guide application that is not currently stored on the user television equipment;

determining the amount of the memory that will be available to the interactive television program guide after storing the non-program-guide application on the user television equipment;

storing program guide data in the memory for use by the interactive television program guide;

receiving information on the amount of memory available for the interactive television program guide to use to store the program guide data;

adjusting the amount of memory used for storing the program guide data ~~in response to~~ based at least in part on the received information and the amount of memory available after storing the non-program guide application on the user television equipment, wherein different categories of program guide data are stored in the memory; and

determining an amount of memory available for each of the different categories of program guide data after the addition of new channels, wherein the adjusting

the memory adjusts based on the amounts of memory that are determined to be available for each of the different categories.

58. (Original) The method defined in claim 37 further comprising detecting the addition of new channels to the given television channel line-up.

59-64. (Canceled)

65. (Currently amended) A memory reconfiguration method for use in an interactive television program guide system in which an interactive television program guide is implemented on user television equipment that has memory in which program guide data for a given memory configuration is stored, comprising:

determining the memory requirements of a new non-program guide application;

determining the amount of the memory that will be available to the interactive television program guide after the new non-program-guide application has been installed on the user television equipment;

receiving program guide data for a new memory configuration;

reconfiguring the memory to accommodate the program guide data for the new memory configuration, wherein different categories of program guide data are stored in the memory, reconfiguring further comprising reallocating the memory among the different categories of program guide data; and

reallocating memory based on information in a database configuration record and the amount of memory

available after the installation of the new non-program guide application.

66. (Original) The method defined in claim 65 further comprising providing the program guide data from a television distribution facility to the interactive television program guide implemented on the user television equipment.

67. (Original) The method defined in claim 66 further comprising determining the memory requirements of a new channel line-up.

68. (Original) The method defined in claim 67 further comprising establishing how much of the program guide data the interactive television program guide should retain for each of the different categories of program guide data to accommodate the new channel line-up.

69. (Original) The method defined in claim 68 further comprising downloading the new channel line-up from the television distribution facility to the user television equipment.

70. (Original) The method defined in claim 65 further comprising allocating the memory based on a plurality of storage levels contained in the database configuration record.

71. (Original) The method defined in claim 70 specifying wherein each storage level specifies how much

data is to be retained by the interactive television program guide in a plurality of programming categories.

72. (Original) The method defined in claim 71 further comprising using one of the programming categories as a filter to discard any program guide data that concerns programs more than a certain number of days into the future.

73. (Currently amended) An interactive television program guide system in which an interactive television program guide is implemented on user television equipment, comprising:

memory in the user television equipment in which program guide data ~~is stored~~ for use by the interactive television program guide and non-program guide applications are stored; and

control circuitry in the user television equipment, wherein the control circuitry is configured to:

determine the memory requirements of a non-program guide application that is not currently stored on the user television equipment;

determine the amount of memory that will be available to the interactive television program guide after storing the non-program-guide application on the user television equipment;

receive information from a remote source on the amount of memory for the interactive television program guide to use to store the program guide data; and

adjust the amount of memory used by the interactive television program guide to store the program

guide data ~~in response to~~ based at least in part on the received information and the amount of memory available after storing the non-program guide application on the user television equipment.

74. (Currently amended) An interactive television program guide system in which an interactive television program guide is implemented on user television equipment, comprising:

memory in the user television equipment in which program guide data ~~is stored~~ for use by the interactive television program guide and non-program guide applications are stored; and

control circuitry in the user television equipment, wherein the control circuitry is configured to:

determine the memory requirements of a non-program guide application that is not currently stored on the user television equipment;

determine the amount of the memory that will be available to the interactive television program guide after storing the non-program-guide application on the user television equipment;

receive information on the amount of memory for the interactive television program guide to use to store the program guide data;

adjust the amount of memory used by the interactive television program guide to store the program guide data ~~in response to~~ based at least in part on the received information and the amount of memory available after storing the non-program guide application on the user television equipment, wherein different categories of program guide data are stored in the memory;

reallocate the memory among the different categories of program guide data when the amount of memory used to store the program guide data is adjusted; and

reallocate the memory based on information in a database configuration record.

75. (Currently amended) An interactive television program guide system in which an interactive television program guide is implemented on user television equipment, comprising:

memory in the user television equipment in which program guide data ~~is stored~~ for use by the interactive television program guide and non-program guide applications are stored; and

control circuitry in the user television equipment, wherein the control circuitry is configured to: determine the memory requirements of a non-program guide application that is not currently stored on the user television equipment;

determine the amount of the memory that will be available to the interactive television program guide after storing the non-program-guide application on the user television equipment;

receive information on the amount of memory for the interactive television program guide to use to store the program guide data;

adjust the amount of memory used by the interactive television program guide to store the program guide data ~~in response to~~ based at least in part on the received information and the amount of memory available after storing the non-program guide application on the user

television equipment, wherein different categories of program guide data are stored in the memory and wherein the program guide data stored in the memory corresponds to a given television channel line-up; and

determine an amount of memory available for each of the different categories of program guide data after the addition of new channels, wherein the control circuitry configured to adjust the memory adjusts based on the amounts of memory that are determined to be available for each of the different categories.

76. (Currently amended) An interactive television program guide system in which an interactive television program guide is implemented on user television equipment, comprising:

memory in the user television equipment in which program guide data ~~is stored~~ for use by the interactive television program guide and non-program guide applications are stored; and

control circuitry in the user television equipment, wherein the control circuitry is configured to:
determine the memory requirements of a non-program guide application that is not currently stored on the user television equipment;

determine the amount of the memory that will be available to the interactive television program guide after storing the non-program-guide application on the user television equipment;

receive information on the amount of memory for the interactive television program guide to use to store the program guide data;

adjust the amount of memory used by the interactive television program guide to store the program guide data ~~in response to~~ based at least in part on the received information and the amount of memory available after storing the new non-program guide application on the user television equipment, wherein the program guide data stored in the memory corresponds to a given television channel line-up; and

detect a change in the amount of channels offered in the television channel line-up.

77. (Canceled)

78. (Currently amended) An interactive television program guide system in which an interactive television program guide is implemented on user television equipment, comprising:

memory in the user television equipment in which program guide data for a given memory configuration ~~is stored~~ for use by the interactive television program guide and non-program guide applications are stored; and

control circuitry in the user television equipment, wherein the control circuitry is configured to:

determine the memory requirements of a non-program guide application that is not currently stored on the user television equipment;

determine the amount of the memory that will be available to the interactive television program guide after storing the non-program-guide application on the user television equipment;

receive program guide data for a new memory configuration;

reconfigure the memory to accommodate the program guide data for the new memory configuration, wherein different categories of program guide data are stored in the memory, the control circuitry configured to reconfigure is further configured to reallocate the memory among the different categories of program guide data; and

reallocate the memory based on information in a database configuration record and the amount of memory available after storing the non-program guide application on the user television equipment.